## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 IGA-02 /054 W

-----111432Z 124656 /43

R 102257Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2033 AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO BY POUCH

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E O 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, MX

SUBJECT: LAND TENURE

- 1. AGATT HAD TELCON WITH ONE OF THE FARMERS IN CIUDAD OBREGON WHOSE LAND WAS PART OF 37,000 HECTARES EXPROPRIATED BY ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION NOVEMBER 19, 1976.
- 2. SOURCE CLARIFIED PRESS ARTICLE MAY 4 (EXCELSIOR, ETC.) STATING OFFER OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO CIUDAD OBREGON FARMERS TO FORFEIT THEIR RIGHTS TO 20,000 OF THE 37,000 HECTARES EXPROPRIATED AND RECEIVE INDEMNIZATION FOR 17,000.
- 3. SOURCE HAD 100 HECTARES WITHIN 37,000 HECTARE AREA. INDIVIDUAL CALLED OFFICE TO SAY THAT FARMER GROUPS PRESENTLY MEETING IN CIUDAD OBREGON AND ALTHOUGH SOME OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSAL EXISTED, GENERAL VIEW WAS THAT EXPROPRIATED FARMERS WOULD ACCEPT PRESIDENTIAL OFFER. MAIN OPPOSITION CAME FROM GROUP OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY LEADERS (CONSEJO COORDINADOR EMPRESARIAL -- ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. PROPOSED SOLUTION BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO IS TO ALLOW FARMERS WITH 100 HECTARE TRACTS TO RECEIVE INDEMNIZATION FOR 46 PERCENT OF THEIR LAND OR 46 HECTARES. FORTY-SIX PERCENT OF 37,000 HECTARES IS 17,020 HECTARES, THUS ARRIVING AT FIGURE GIVEN PARA 2.

5. COMMENT: PROPOSED SOLUTION NOT LIKELY TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE AMONG PRIVATE FARMERS BUT SOME OF SONORA GROUP APPARENTLY FEELS HALF A LOAF BETTER THAN NONE. THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT NEW OWNERS WILL BECOME DISENCHANTED WITH 5 HECTARE FARMS AND PREVIOUS OWNERS WILL BE ABLE TO RENT LAND FROM EJIDATARIOS AS IN PAST. ACCORDING TO ABOVE SOURCE PRESIDENT COMMISSIONED A SPECIAL STUDY OF CURRENT OCCUPANCY OF THE 37,000 HECTARES AND FOUND THAT ONLY SOME 1,500 FAMILIES OF THE 7,500 FAMILIES AWARDED THE LAND IN NOVEMBER WERE STILL OCCUPYING THESE FARMS. THOMPSON

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